

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

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NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04

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OES-06 OIC-02 /150 W

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P R 041800Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2072

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECA, EGEN

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SESSIONS OF 4TH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA - FEB 23 - MARCH 3

REF: A) KINSHASA 1724 (NOTAL)

B) KINSHASA 1785 (NOTAL)

C) ADDIS ABABA 2561 (1975) (NOTAL)

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SUMMARY. FOLLOWING PREPARED AGENDA CONFERENCE CONSIDERED REPORTS
OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND OF THE AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF PLANNERS WITH RELATIVE LITTLE
DISCUSSION OF MOST ITEMS. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPEATEDLY STRESSED
IMPORTANCE OF ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBER STATES
IN ORDER TO ENABLE COMMISSION TO PERFORM ITS TASK. HE ESTIMATED
FINANCIAL GAP FOR 1977-79 AT \$16 MILLION AND ASKED FOR A DOUBLING

OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS. SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, MOST OF WHICH WERE NON-CONTROVERSIAL. ONLY RESOLUTIONS ON ROLE AND STRENGTHENING OF IDEP AND INCREASING NUMBER OF UNDATS GENERATED FAIR AMOUNT OF DEBATE AND CONTROVERSY. CONFERENCE GOT HUNG UP ON THE ISSUE OF EXPANDING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND FINALLY DECIDED TO POSTPONE ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS UNTIL NEXT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN MAURITIUS IN OCT. 1977.

1. FOLLOWING GENERAL STATEMENTS BY A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, OBSERVERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF UN AGENCIES REPORTED REF A), CONFERENCE CONSIDERED REPORT OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND REPORT OF THE AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF PLANNERS. THERE WAS LITTLE DEBATE ON THE SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE REVISED FRAMEWORK OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER IN AFRICA, AND THAT ON THE MEDIUM-TERM AND BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAMS OF THE COMMISSION.

2. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS PROPOSED A NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS WHICH WERE ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE. SUBJECTS DEALT WITH CONCERNED REQUESTS TO MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO FINANCE WORK PROGRAM OF THE COMMISSION FOR 1977-79. TOTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PERIOD WERE ESTIMATED AT US \$76.6 MILLION. AFTER DEDUCTING ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS FROM UN REGULAR AND EXTRA-BUDGETARY SOURCES AND BILATERAL DONORS, THE REMAINING GAP, INCLUDING \$4.7 MILLION FOR FINANCING OF ADDITIONAL UNDATS (DISCUSSED BELOW) WAS ESTIMATED BY SECRETARIAT AT \$16 MILLION. A PLEDGING CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN STATES IS SCHEDULED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR APRIL IN LAGOS. OTHER RESOLUTIONS DEALT WITH ASSURING THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES OBTAIN ADEQUATE SHARE OF IFAD FUNDS, GIVING PROBLEMS OF SEMI-LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES (ZAIRE) ATTENTION COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING AN AFRICAN GLOBAL STRATEGY WITHIN THE "DECADE OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS IN AFRICA, 1978-1987."

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P R 041800Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2073

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3. FOLLOWING MOSTLY PERFUNCTORY DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS ITEMS
CONTAINED IN REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE CONFERENCE
DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY
VARIOUS COUNTRIES OR IN THE REPORTS MENTIONED. IN ORDER TO
EXPEDITE PROCEDURE THESE RESOLUTIONS WERE SUBMITTED INITIALLY
FOR CONSIDERATION AND ANY AMENDMENTS TO A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.
HENCE WHEN RESOLUTIONS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE THEY WERE
PASSED PRACTICALLY WITHOUT DEBATE, IN PART BECAUSE OF RATHER
HIGH-HANDED TACTICS OF CHAIRMAN (SEE BELOW).

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4. TWO CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTIONS ON WHICH THERE WAS FAIR AMOUNT
OF DISCUSSION WERE RESOLUTIONS ON STRENGTHENING AFRICAN
INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (IDEP) AND ON
ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL MULTINATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY DEVELOP-
MENT ADVISORY TEAMS (UNDATS). THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
NEED TO UPGRADE RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITIES OF INSTITUTE.
HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF DELEGATES EXPRESSED OBJECTIONS TO: A) REQUIR-
EMENT OF PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR BY UNDP; (THE MAJOR
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTOR), B) RECOGNIZING THE DIPLOMA OF THE

INSTITUTE AND C) ASSURING NATIONALS GRADUATED FROM THE INSTITUTE AN APPROPRIATE POSITION IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. SEVERAL DELEGATES QUESTIONED THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL UNDATS BEFORE EXISTING UNDATS HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED AND PROVED TO BE VIABLE. THEY ALSO CHALLENGED THE LOGIC OF HAVING THE SAHEL AND COASTAL STATES SERVED BY TWO SEPARATE UNDATS. NEVERTHELESS BOTH RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED WITH PRACTICALLY NO CHANGE, PRESUMABLY WITH THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES.

5. OTHER RESOLUTIONS WHICH WERE ADOPTED DEALT WITH STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN ECA AND FAO, WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND OAU; INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT REMOTE SENSION; DEVELOPMENT OF MANPOWER; NATURAL RESOURCES; ENERGY; INDUSTRIALIZATION; TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS; INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS; COMMODITIES AND DEBT FORGIVENESS AND RESCHEDULING. COMPLETE ANNOTATED LIST OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY.

6. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PROFILARATION OF CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF VARIOUS MINISTERIAL GROUPINGS. THE RESOLUTION ON RESTRUCTURING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN AFRICA REQUESTED THE EXSEC OF ECA IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OAU TO PREPARE AN INVENTORY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED INSTITUTIONALIZED CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS IN AFRICA AND EVALUATE THEIR FINANCIAL BURDEN WITH A VIEW TO THEIR RATIONALIZATION.

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7. CONSIDERABLE DEBATE AND HEAT WAS GENERATED BY PROPOSAL TO EXPAND MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FROM 16 TO 24 MEMBERS. A RESTRICTED GROUP CHAIRED BY ALGERIA MET MOST OF AFTERNOON OF MARCH 2 AND MARCH 3 WITHOUT REACHING AGREEMENT ON REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL SEATS. DESPITE APPEALS TO AFRICAN UNITY AND NEED TO ACCEPT PAINFUL DECISIONS FOR THE SAKE OF SOLIDARITY, ISSUE WAS NOT RESOLVED. MAIN POINT OF CONTENTION WAS WHETHER ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL SEATS SHOULD BE BY THE FOUR REGIONS, OR ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN EACH REGION. ALLOCATION ACCORDING TO FORMER CRITERION WOULD GIVE DISPROPORTIONATE WEIGHT TO NORTHERN REGION WHICH INCLUDES SIX COUNTRIES AND NOW HAS FOUR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IT WAS FINALLY DECIDED TO POSTPONE ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS UNTIL NEXT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN MAURITIUS IN OCTOBER, AND DECLARING THAT IN THE MEANTIME ALL MEMBER STATES OF ECA WILL ALSO BE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. WHILE COMMITTEE MET, PLENARY REVIEWED AND APPROVED QUICKLY DRAFT REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT WITH SEVERAL AMENDMENTS WHICH WERE, HOWEVER, NOT SUBMITTED TO THE PLENARY.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2074
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8. CONFERENCE ACCEPTED INVITATION OF MOROCCO TO HOLD NEXT
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN RABAT IN 1979.

9. COMMENTS:

A. THIS WAS FIRST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT
OF NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION, ADEBAYO ADEDEJI,
WHO WAS FORTHCOMING AND KNOWLEDGEABLE DURING THE DISCUSSIONS AND
MADE VERY GOOD IMPRESSION ON THE CONFERENCE. HE WAS ABLY
ASSISTED BY HIS DEPUTY, DAVID GANAO. ADEDEJI CLEARLY OBTAINED
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THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE FOR THE NEW DIRECTIONS WHICH HE HAD OUTLINED FOR THE STRUCTURE AND WORK OF THE COMMISSION. WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS HOW EFFECTIVE HE WILL BE IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION AND DEGREE OF FINANCIAL, POLITICAL AND OTHER SUPPORT HE WILL RECEIVE FROM MEMBER STATES, CONDUCT AND TONE OF CONFERENCE ENCOURAGES THE HOPE THAT HE MAY ACHIEVE REASONABLE SUCCESS.

B. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE FOR US POLICY IS BEING SENT SEPTEL.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

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